

December 5, 2002

Hon. Jim Wilson, NMDM
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Whitney Block, Room 5630
99 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Jim Wilson:

It has come to our attention that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has begun the process to develop an Ontario Provincial Mineral Policy. It is understood that one possible component to the policy is the establishment of Mineral Reserves where the land use needs of the Mineral Industry take priority in any future land use planning. As a mineral explorationist active in the Abitibi Subprovince of Ontario I fully support the establishment of an Abitibi Mineral Reserve.

The mechanisms used by the current government to establish new parks and conservation sites have created a highly fragmented land fabric, which restricts "land access". In addition to the historically produced minerals such as gold, copper, lead, zinc, nickel, talc and phosphate, new technologies and changing markets suggest that diamonds, magnesite and tantalum are near-term possibilities for yet more discoveries within the Abitibi and many of these can be expected to be "World Class". This diverse mineral bonanza is unmatched anywhere in the world. For this reason alone the Abitibi Subprovince is regarded internationally by explorationists as "*one of the best places in the world to search*". It is prime exploration ground for new mines, new jobs and new tax revenues for Ontario and our northern communities. Regardless of how many world class deposits the Abitibi subprovince still hosts, the critical ingredient in the process of discovering new mines is "land access". For Ontario to retain its position as one of the premier locations in Canada to explore "land access" must be maintained.

We urge you to create a pro-exploration Ontario Mineral Policy incorporating a Mineral Reserve for the whole of Ontario's Abitibi Subprovince. Such a Mineral Reserve would recognize the high exploration potential and assist in providing "access to land" by guaranteeing that land use considerations of the Mineral Exploration and Development Community take priority in any future land use planning.

Sincerely,

c.c. Hon. Jerry Ouellette, MNR, Whitney Block, 6th Floor, 99 Wellesley St. W., Rm 6630, M7A 1W3